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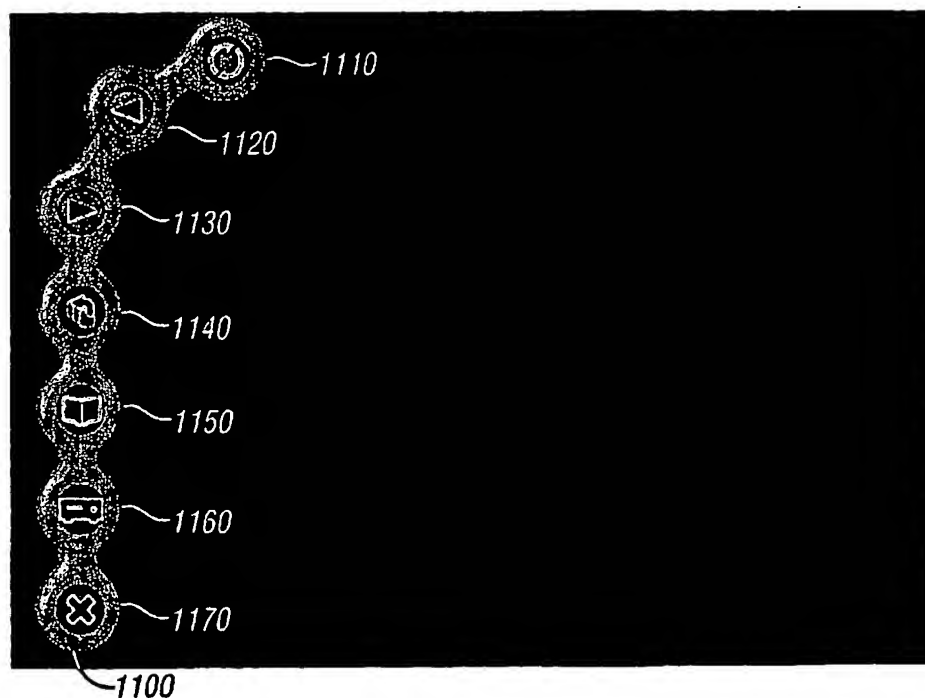
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(54) **Graphical user interface**

(57) A method of displaying a group of graphical objects in a graphical user interface whereby the group comprises a plurality of graphical objects which are linked together with graphical link elements. The graph-

ical objects, taken together with the link elements, form a linked chain. The method allows for the selective display of sub-chains of graphical objects, the sub-chains representing a branch from a linked chain of graphical objects.

**FIG. 6a**





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 0832

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 825 521 A (THOMSON MULTIMEDIA SA) 25 February 1998 (1998-02-25) * the whole document *	1-5,27, 32	G06F9/44 G06F3/033
A	--- "SELECTING NODES IN A HIERARCHIAL GRAPH USING THE KEYBOARD" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN,US,IBM CORP. NEW YORK, vol. 37, no. 7, 1 July 1994 (1994-07-01), pages 151-156, XP000455469 ISSN: 0018-8689 * the whole document *	1-5,27	
A	--- EP 0 593 161 A (IBM) 20 April 1994 (1994-04-20) * the whole document *	1-5,27	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G06F
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>16 October 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Fonderson, A</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-5, 27, 32



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 00 30 0832

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-5,27,32

Method of representing a plurality of graphical objects in a graphical user interface in the form of a linked chain

2. Claims: 6-14,20-25

Method of defining and representing alternate representations of graphical objects in a graphical user interface

3. Claims: 15-19

Method of controlling the appearance of a graphical object in a graphical user interface by associating the graphical object to a "look object", and altering the appearance of the graphical object by altering the "look object"

4. Claim : 26

Method of producing a kit of elements for graphical objects to be used in a graphical user interface by defining a set of "fixed elements" common to all instances of the graphical objects and also defining a set of "repeatable elements"

5. Claims: 28-31,33

Apparatus for use in entering data into a graphical user interface using a keypad and a plurality of keypad templates

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 0832

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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16-10-2000

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82